

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job sent to a printer via a print driver, the method including:

creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

formatting the document in the memory into a print format consistent with a layout of the document on print media, the formatted document having a document area;

~~sampling a task that uses a consumable resource to provide a sample by overlaying a sample window over a portion of the formatted document in the memory, the window having a window area smaller than the document area and providing low resolution level analysis data with respect to resource requirements of the task;~~

~~analyzing the portion of the formatted document overlayed by the sample window and low resolution level analysis of the task with respect to determine resource requirements of the portion thereof and providing task sample requirement data in response thereto; and~~

~~ascertaining the resource requirements of the task print job based on the resource requirements of the portion task sample requirement data.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1 wherein the ~~task document~~ includes ~~printing an image on a document~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 2-1 wherein the memory ~~of the step of sampling~~ is a computer readable buffer.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim ~~5~~1 wherein the step of analyzing includes performing a Raster Image Processing analysis on the portion of the formatted document within the sample window to determine window coverage.

7. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 6 wherein the step of ascertaining the resource requirements ~~of the task~~ includes ~~the step of~~ multiplying the window coverage by a factor related to a size of the ~~smaller~~ window area to determine the page coverage of the document.

8. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 7 wherein the step of ascertaining the resource requirements ~~of the task~~ includes ~~the step of~~ multiplying the page coverage by a number of pages in the ~~task~~ print job to determine job requirements.

9. (Original) The invention of Claim 8 including the step of comparing the resource requirements of the task to data relating to an availability of the resources.

10. (Original) The invention of Claim 9 further including the step of executing the task if sufficient resources are available.

11. (Original) The invention of Claim 10 further including the step of providing a message if sufficient resources are not available.

12. (Original) The invention of Claim 11 further including the step of securing additional resources if sufficient resources are not available.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job sent to a printer via a print driver, the method including:

creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

~~sampling a task that uses a consumable resource by~~ overlaying a sample window over a portion of the document ~~and;~~

~~providing performing a~~ low resolution level analysis ~~of only the portion of the~~ formatted document overlayed by the sample window ~~data with respect to~~ determine resource requirements of the task overlayed portion;

extrapolating the resource requirements of the overlayed portion to estimate resource requirements of the print job; and

comparing the ~~sample window and the low level analysis data~~ estimated resource requirements of the print job to data relating to an availability of the resource and providing an output with response thereto.

14. (Original) The invention of Claim 13 wherein the low resolution level analysis is performed at fifty dots per square inch.

15. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13 further including the step of providing actual resource requirements of the print job ~~data relating to an amount of resources required by the task.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 15 further including the step of comparing the actual ~~data~~ resource requirements to the ~~low level analysis data~~ estimated resource requirements and generating correction data in response thereto.

17. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 16 further including the step of adjusting the ~~task sampling step~~ low resolution level analysis in response to the correction data.

18. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 17 wherein the ~~task~~ print job includes printing an image on a document.

19. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 18 wherein the ~~task-print job~~ includes printing plural images on plural documents.

20. (Original) The invention of Claim 19 wherein the images include text.

21. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13 wherein the ~~step of sampling~~performing a low resolution level analysis includes ~~the step of performing a Raster Image Processing analysis.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13 ~~wherein the step of sampling~~ includinges the step of exeeuting printing the task-print job if sufficient resources are available.

23. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim ~~22-13~~ further including the step of providing a message if sufficient resources are not available.

24. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim ~~22-13~~ further including the step of securing additional resources if sufficient resources are not available.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A program stored on a computer readable medium for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job received by a print driver including:

code for creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

code for formatting the document in the memory into a print format consistent with a layout of the document on print media, the formatted document having a document area;

code for ~~sampling a task that uses a consumable resource to provide a sample by~~ overlaying a sample window over a portion of the formatted document in the memory, the

~~window having a window area smaller than the document area and providing low resolution level analysis data with respect to resource requirements of the task;~~

~~code for analyzing the portion of the formatted document overlayed by the sample window and low resolution level analysis of the task with respect to determine resource requirements thereof and providing task sample requirement data in response thereto of the portion; and~~

~~code for ascertaining the resource requirements of the task print job based on the resource requirements of the portion task sample requirement data.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 26 wherein the ~~task document~~ includes ~~printing an image on a document~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim ~~27-26~~ including ~~wherein the code for sampling includes code for reading a file containing the document into a buffer.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim ~~27-26~~ wherein the memory ~~of the code for sampling~~ is a computer readable buffer.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim ~~30-26~~ wherein the code for analyzing includes code for performing a Raster Image Processing analysis on the portion of the formatted document within the sample window to determine window coverage.

32. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 31 wherein the code for ascertaining the resource requirements ~~of the task~~ includes code for multiplying the window coverage by a factor related to a size of the ~~smaller window~~ area to determine the page coverage of the document.

33. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 32 wherein the code for ascertaining the resource requirements ~~of the task~~ includes code for multiplying the page coverage by a number of pages in the ~~task~~ print job to determine job requirements.

34. (Currently Amended) A program stored on a computer readable medium for ascertaining resource requirements of a print job sent to a printer via a print driver including:

code for creating a document of the print job with the print driver and reading the print job into memory directly from the print driver;

code for ~~sampling a task that uses a consumable resource by~~ overlaying a sample window over a portion of the document ~~and~~;

~~providing code for performing a low resolution level analysis of only the portion of the formatted document overlayed by the sample window data with respect to~~ determine resource requirements of the task overlayed portion;

code for extrapolating the resource requirements of the overlayed portion to estimate resource requirements of the print job; and

code for comparing the ~~sample window and the low level analysis data~~ estimated resource requirements of the print job to data relating to an availability of the resource and providing an output with response thereto.

35. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 34 further including code for providing actual ~~data relating to an amount of resources required by the task~~ resource requirements of the print job.

36. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 35 further including code for comparing the actual ~~data~~ resource requirements to the ~~low level analysis data~~ estimated resource requirements and generating correction data in response thereto.

37. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 36 further including code for adjusting the ~~code for sampling a task~~ low resolution level analysis in response to the

correction data.

38. (Canceled)

39. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the formatting includes formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the analyzing is performed at the print resolution.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the formatting includes formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the analyzing is performed at a different resolution lower than the print resolution.

41. (New) The program of claim 26, wherein the code for formatting includes code for formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the code for analyzing includes code for analyzing the portion of the formatted print document at the print resolution.

42. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the code for formatting includes code for formatting the document at a print resolution, and wherein the code for analyzing includes code for analyzing the portion of the formatted print document at a different resolution lower than the print resolution.